

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SOUTHERN WATCHMAN, Established April, 1860.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the Ends thou Aims't at, be thy Country's, thy God's land Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHERN, Established June, 1866

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Pretoria in the Hands of the British.

LORD ROBERTS AND HIS ARMY IN THE CITY.

London, June 6, 4 35 a m.—Queen Victoria, surrounded by the Duke and Duchess of York, Princess Christian, Princess Victoria and many other notables of her court, drank to the health of Lord Roberts and the army at Balmoral last evening. A great bonfire, lighted at her majesty's command, blazed on Oraiggon mountains, illuminating the country side for miles around. The nation joins in the toast, glorifying Lord Roberts and turbulently rejoicing in his victory.

The dispatches of Lord Roberts, telling of the incidents before the surrendering of the capital by the civilians stand alone, as the correspondents with him have not yet had their turn with the wires.

Lord Roberts' postscript announcing the loss of the Yeomanry battalion came too late for the public to know it last evening. The newspaper commentators consider the incident deplorable but as having no weight to speak of in the results. The battle numbered between 400 and 500. Gen Botha and most of his men got away from Pretoria. This is inferred from Lord Roberts' message, but the presumption is that the Boer commandant general cannot escape the British dispositions without a fight.

Operations elsewhere seem to have dwindled to nothing. Gen. Baden Powell joined Gen Hunter on Sunday at Lichtenburg.

Sir Redvers Buller has not moved. Bennett Burleigh, wiring from Johannesburg, says President Kruger took £2,000,000 in cash to Middleburg.

Mr Barleig and Guy H. Scull, an American correspondent, entered Johannesburg the night before Lord Roberts occupied the city and made a tour of it unmolested by the armed burghers.

The war office has information that one of the first things done by Lord Roberts after the occupation of Pretoria was to direct Gen French to relieve the British prisoners confined at Waterval.

Bells were rung, flags down and holidays were declared all over England.

The lord mayor of London has cabled to Lord Roberts as follows:

"The empire will never forget what you and the forces under your command have accomplished. Accept the grateful congratulations of the citizens of London."

IRISH BATTALION CAPTURED.

London, June 5, 12, midnight.—Lord Roberts reports to the war office that the Thirteenth battalion of the Imperial Yeomanry (Irish) was "overwhelmed by the Boers at Lindley."

Lord Methuen made a magnificent march to the rescue, but was too late.

Following is the text of the dispatch:

"Pretoria station, June 5, 12.55 p m.—I regret to report that the Thirteenth Imperial Yeomanry had to surrender to a very superior force of the enemy on May 31, near Lindley. On receiving information of the battalion being attacked, I ordered Methuen to proceed with all speed to its assistance."

"Methuen was then on the march on the Helibron side of Kroonstad, and, half an hour after the receipt of my telegram on June 1, he started off. By 10 a. m. of the following day he had marched 44 miles in 25 hours but he was too late to rescue Col Spragg's Yeomanry."

"Methuen attacked the Boers, who were between 2,000 and 3,000 strong, and after a running fight of five hours, completely routed the enemy."

The Boers Retreating to the Mountains Where They Have Great Stores of Am- munition and Provis- ions.

London, June 7, 3.15 a. m.—Military operations in South Africa are

apparently at a standstill. For a day or two the tired troops of Lord Roberts are resting, and he is filling the magazines and warehouses of his new base, Pretoria, preparatory to a long chase after the retreating Boers in the direction of the Lydenburg. The cavalry are probably seeking to intercept Commandant General Botha.

Some dispatches are to hand which left Pretoria Monday, while the fighting was going on outside the city. They come by way of Lorenzo Marques. One of them says: "Toward the end of the day, when the big naval guns were shelling the southern forts, a number of projectiles burst, damaging the suburbs. All day armed burghers have been leaving Pretoria, going east. The greater part of the railway rolling stock has been removed."

General Botha was fighting an essentially rear guard action, his object being not to defend Pretoria but to delay Lord Roberts until the railway switch had been cleared and the main part of the Boer army had started to withdraw. The British advance appears to have left open to the Boers the best line of retreat along the railway."

Possibly the British have been able to cut the railway before a full retirement was effected. That Pretoria would be defended was apparently given out after the council of war, with a view of misleading the British. Lydenburg, the district into which the provisions originally destined for Pretoria have been diverted and where a cartridge factory has been erected and reserve supplies of all sorts are stored, is a volcanic region of fertile valleys, enclosed by great ramparts of precipitous rocks, penetrated by narrow, winding passes. There are herds of cattle in the valleys, and there is much native labor available for fortifying.

The Boers used both heavy and light artillery at Pretoria. What was supposed to have been the last train out of Pretoria arrived at Lorenzo Marques Sunday evening. The passengers included a number of foreign volunteers who were leaving the Boers and also the wives and children of Hollanders. They described Pretoria as destitute of food and clothing. What the Boer officials could not take the natives and townspeople did.

Probably the most important Boer army is at Laing's Nek, where both sides are passive. Gen Rundle and Gen Brabant have withdrawn a little southward.

Gen Baden Powell has extended martial law to the Marico and north Lichtenburg districts. Shots were exchanged between Boer and British patrols 18 miles east of Mafeking on May 28. Part of the forces lately at Pretoria are reported to have gone westward to meet Baden Powell and to make a show of holding the country through which he and Gen Hunter are moving.

A dispatch to The Daily Telegraph from Newcastle dated Tuesday, June 5, describes the Boers there as an unorganized rabble, without flour, meat or sugar. Their surrender is only a question of time. Nevertheless, the correspondent avers, they hold strong positions with the prospect of a safe retreat toward Lydenburg.

It is understood at Newcastle that the British government has approached the Natal government with a proposition that Natal should voluntarily renounce local self-government for a time in order that a general system of crown government may be instituted for all South Africa, leading in the course of time to federation and the subsequent autonomy of the various states simultaneously.

A THREE DAYS ARMISTICE

London, June 6.—A special dispatch from Lorenzo Marques dated Tuesday, June 5, says: "General Buller and Christian Botha met at Laing's Nek at Buller's request when a three days' armistice was agreed upon."

The dispatch adds that the British have evacuated Utrecht.

Important to Counties.

In various portions of the State there seems to be much misapprehension as to the matter of the assessment of the counties by the State committee. Many seem to think that the committee has required that each candidate for the senate and house in each county pay an assessment to the State committee. The fact of the matter is that the assessments on the counties—the county committees—are exactly the same as for years past. Each county committee is required, as heretofore, simply to pay an assessment to the State committee of \$10 for each senator and \$5 for each representative it has in the general assembly. The candidates themselves have no dealings with the State committee. The only reason these offices are named in this way is in order that a proper basis for the assessments might be secured, the representation in the general assembly being based on population. Col Jones has received several letters about the matter and wishes all to understand that no change whatever has been made.

Bold Correspondent Interviews Kruger.

Old President Talks Freely, Denying Several Points.

THE TRANSVAAL CAPITAL IS NOW ON WHEELS.

London, June 8, 3 a. m.—The executive officers of the Transvaal government are in a railway car, which is situated on a switch at Machadorp station. President Kruger caused the interior of the coach to be reconstructed some time ago with a view to contingencies that have now arrived. A correspondent of the Daily Express who went from Lorenzo Marques to see President Kruger, was received yesterday. The president sat smoking a long pipe. He looked worried, but his bearing was quiet and determined. He did not make the least objection to being interviewed.

The correspondent was equipped for the interview by cables from London.

"Yes," said President Kruger, "it is quite true that the British have occupied Pretoria. This, however, does not end the war. The burghers are fully determined to fight to the last. They will never surrender so long as five hundred armed men remain in the country. I feel deeply encouraged by the fine work Steyn and Dewet are doing in the Free State."

The correspondent suggested that the war was over, inasmuch as the capital had been taken.

"The capital!" exclaimed Mr Kruger, with energy. "What is a capital? It does not consist of any particular collection of bricks and mortar. The capital of the republic, the seat of government, is here in this car. There is no magic about any special site. Our country is invaded, it is true, but it is not conquered. The government is still effective."

Referring to the reasons why he left Pretoria, Mr Kruger said:

"I was not foolish enough to be taken a prisoner. I provide this means of locomotion precisely for the same reason as our burghers supply themselves with horses when they take the field."

"It is necessary that I should be able to move quickly from place to place. That is all. By and by this car will take me back to Pretoria. For the present it enables me to keep away from Pretoria, where I could be of no service, and where I should only play into the hands of the enemy."

"They say, Mr Kruger," remarked the correspondent, "that you have brought with you gold to the value of £2,000,000."

"It is not true," replied the president. "Whatever monetary resources I may have with me are simply those which we require for state purposes. At the same time, I am not going to tell you where our treasure is. Let Lord Roberts find it if he can."

"They also say in England, Mr Kruger, that you contemplate taking refuge on a Dutch man of war at Lorenzo Marques."

"That again is a lie," retorted the president, with vehemence. "I know of no Dutch vessel. I am not contemplating taking refuge anywhere. I shall not leave my country. There will be no need for me to do anything of the kind."

The Correspondent—Then, sir, there is much surprise at your having left Mrs Kruger behind.

President Kruger—But why? Mrs Kruger is quite safe in Pretoria. She would only be put to personal inconvenience here. All communication between us is stopped of course, but she will await my return with calmness and courage. She is a brave woman. I am awaiting further information. We are surrounded by faithful burghers and are quite safe.

State Secretary Reitz remarked: "You may depend on it that the war is not yet over. Guerrilla warfare will continue over an enormous area. We intend to fight to the bitter end and shall probably retire upon Lydenburg, where we can hold out for many months."

"Yes," observed Mr Kruger, "it is only now that the real struggle has begun. I fear that there will still be much bloodshed but the fault is that of the British government."

Then raising his voice to an almost passionate height, Mr Kruger exclaimed: "The time has passed for us to talk. We have done plenty of that, but it has done us no good. There is nothing left for us to do but to keep on fighting."

The correspondent who secured the interview telegraphed it direct from Machadorp station yesterday, when the wires were working as usual to Lorenzo Marques.

Nine hundred British prisoners

arrived Tuesday at Nooitgedacht. They are penned in a barbed wire enclosure of four acres on the open veldt.

According to a dispatch from Lorenzo Marques, dated yesterday, Lord Roberts is reported to have intercepted two trains full leaving the vicinity of Pretoria. Telegrams from the British side are exceedingly scanty. Two brief ones received from Pretoria say that Mrs Kruger still occupying the presidency and that a number of engines and cars have been secured. The British under Maj DeLisle captured a gun and caused the Boers heavy loss, the British casualties being slight. Boer officials removed £300,000 in gold from the National Bank June 4, but did not touch the cash holdings of the other banks.

Some of the Boers are surrendering voluntarily and the townspeople of Pretoria are described as showing considerable enthusiasm over the British arrival. Mr Prevost Battersby in a dispatch to The Morning Post from Pretoria, dated June 5, says: "The Boers pledged themselves to 20 British officers not to take the British prisoners away if these officers would control them and prevent an outbreak. Nevertheless they began their removal. After 900 had been taken British shells struck a train that was loading and the Boers desisted and retired."

"The British officers at Daespoort refused to leave their quarters and made the Boer commandant a prisoner, releasing him at midnight on condition that he would cancel the order for the removal of the prisoners. The Pretoria forts were found without guns. All the artillery had been gotten away."

Another dispatch says: "Sixteen hundred British prisoners were removed. After the government had taken away most of the stores the burghers were given a free hand to help themselves. All the British found was a few hundred bags of coffee and sugar."

Democrats of New York in State Convention.

New York, June 5.—The Democratic State convention today elected these delegates at large to the national Democratic convention:

David B. Hill, Richard Croker, Edward Murphy and Augustus Van Wyck.

Alternates: Frank Campbell, Jacob Ruppert, Jr., O Morgan Sanford and James S. Helvin.

Electors at large: Frederick Cook of Rochester; Robert C. Titus of Buffalo.

The platform adopted contains no reaffirmation of the Chicago platform of 1896, but a declaration that the party in the State will support the platform of the Kansas City convention. The platform declares against war taxes in time of peace, declares for parity of gold and silver as currency; demands abolition of all customs and tariffs between Puerto Rico and the United States; condemns trusts and monopolies and entangling alliances; demands just and liberal pension laws and election of United States senators by the people and favors the nomination of Wm J Bryan.

The convention gave promise of being very stormy, but ended quietly. The particular feature of the convention was the domination of affairs by ex-Senator David B. Hill. The silver men profess to be satisfied with the result.

Hester's Cotton Analysis.

New Orleans, June 7.—Secretary Hester's analysis of the cotton movement for the nine months of the season from Sept 1 to the close of May, inclusive, shows that compared with the crop movement last year, Texas, including Indian Territory, has brought into sight this season in round figures 908,000 bales less, while other Gulf States, which include Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Missouri and Oklahoma, have marketed 582,000 bales less, and the group of Atlantic States, which include North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Virginia, show a decrease of 578,000, making the decrease in the total of crop marketed 2,068,000 bales.

Mr Hester shows the amount brought into sight for the Atlantic States for the nine months to be 3,512,364 bales, a decrease under last year of 578,454.

The total crop in sight at the close of May was 8,759,661 bales, a decrease under last year of 2,088,109.

At the close of May in a year the amount brought into sight from Texas and Indian Territory was 119,468 bales, other Gulf States 58,420 and from the Atlantic States 269,182. The groups of States, in round figures, of the crop of last year shows from Texas and Indian Territory last year 3,555,000, other Gulf States 3,360,000, Atlantic States 4,360,000.

No News From Pretoria.

NOT A LINE OF NEWS IS ALLOWED TO COME FROM PRETORIA.

London, June 9, 3 13 a. m.—Gen Buller has at length taken the offensive and by manœuvring he has secured a position west of Laing's Nek, by which he believes he can make the positions untenable. Presumably he will immediately follow up his success.

Lord Roberts has communicated nothing for three days, nor permitted the correspondents to wire what is going on. London's inference is that he is resting, although he is probably disposing his army for a reach after Commandant Gen Botha.

A blockade of the wires, owing to the crush of official correspondence, may account for the scanty press dispatches. Some telegrams filed a week ago are only just now arriving. According to one of them, the streets were filled with women and children. Rifle shots could be heard everywhere. The British soldiers would stop firing and join in the chase after chickens. The burghers surrendered to anyone. Kaffirs went about looting the Jewish stores, and mounted infantry galloped hither and thither.

Lord Roberts' army has a new song. It runs thus:

"We're marching into Pretoria;
It belongs to Queen Victoria."

The Daily Express has the following from Pretoria, dated Wednesday: "The one thousand prisoners who were deported from Waterval were told that they were about to be given up to Lord Roberts. They entrained cheerfully and were conveyed to Nooitgedacht, instead of Pretoria."

"Gen Louis Botha, with a rear guard of 2,000, left Pretoria during the night. The British advance guard on entering was upon the very heels of the retreating Boers. Botha has sworn to carry on the war in the mountains."

At Lorenzo Marques station a crowd waited all Thursday night to see President Kruger, as it was reported that he would arrive by a special train to gain an asylum on board the Netherlands cruiser Friesland.

Middleburg is said to be full of Boer refugees and wounded. The railway still delivers goods at Brokhorst spruit, 40 miles east of Pretoria. A British column is at Regmersdorp, Switzerland. Eleven British prisoners have been taken to Middleburg. The British at Beira are moving into the interior in detachments of 200 daily.

Mr G. V. Fiddes, imperial secretary to the high commissioner, with a part of Sir Alfred Milner's staff, left Cape Town Tuesday evening for Pretoria, possibly, as the Cape Town correspondent of The Daily News thinks, to arrange the annexation details.

GEN BULLER TAKES THE OF- FENSIVE.

London, June 8, 11 25 p. m.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Gen Buller:

Yellow Boom Farm, June 8.—On June 6th Gen Talbot Coke, with the Tenth brigade and the South African Light Horse, seized Van Wyke hill. The enemy made some resistance, and a good deal of sniping occurred. Our casualties were about 4 killed and 13 wounded.

During that day and the following we got two 7 and two 12 pounder naval guns on to Van Wyke hill and 5 inch guns on to the southwestern spur of Inkwele. Under cover of their fire General Hildyard today assaulted all the spurs of the berg between Botha's Pass and Inkwele.

The attack, which was well planned by Hildyard and carried out with immense dash by the troops, for whom no mountains were too steep, outflanked the enemy, who were forced to retire from their very strong position.

I think we did not have any casualties, and I hope I have obtained a position from which I can render Laing's Nek untenable."

A charter was granted Saturday to the Clear Water Bleachery and Manufacturing Company of Aiken. The capital stock is to be \$200,000, and the president and treasurer is Thomas Barrett, Jr., of Augusta, who is connected with cotton mills in Augusta, Graniteville and other factories over the Savannah in South Carolina.

THE PORT ROYAL NAVAL STATION.

The Beaufort and Port Royal People Will Fight to Re- tain It.

Editor the Daily Item

As a matter which involves the national defense and a waste of the nation's funds, we commend the following to the attention of your readers:

The paragraph in the naval appropriation bill, as it now refers to the Port Royal (S. C.) naval station, provides that \$800,000 shall be spent for the improvement of that plant unless the secretary, after a report by a competent board of naval officers, shall decide that the interests of the government would be better served at Charleston. In which case, the station will be transferred to the latter place.

This last proviso is the result of strenuous efforts by certain Charleston interests, and has been cunningly conceived, based on false claims, and fostered in secret.

We would say to the country that this fight is but begun, and if fought fair in the light we have no doubt as to the issue.

Several naval boards composed of eminent naval authorities have examined Port Royal harbor at different times with a view to determining its availability for various naval purposes. They have always enthusiastically endorsed the place, and we are confident of a favorable report in this instance, if an unbiased board be appointed.

Those who are behind this measure are noisily announcing that the secretary approves of the proposed removal and the station is already Charleston's. We have a high opinion of Secretary Long and do not believe him capable of such action—of prejudging a case without an investigation. It may be, however, the case of those in power has been secured by the men interested in this waste of the public funds. Therefore the matter is laid before the country that it may see it is proposed that the national interests shall be sacrificed for the benefit of a certain locality; for publicity will insure a decision based on the public welfare—the national defense.

We hereby announce to the secretary of the navy and to the country that we propose to prove, before the board appointed, the following facts based on official documents and other reliable sources:

That the present site was carefully chosen for its purpose by a board of eminent naval authorities.
That the harbor and bar of Port Royal are the best on the South Atlantic coast, and will permit the navy of the nation to enter in double column to manœuvre and to find ample and protected anchorages. The entrance through the bar is broad, deep and natural; the harbor anchorage unapproached on the Southern coast for its magnitude and sheltering headlands. No rivers eternally empty here their sediment, and no daily shifting quicksand chokes this harbor's entrance. Nature, with lavish hand, moulded a great basin out of the rock; and the channels, sounded and recorded by Menendez, 300 years ago, prove to the deepest draft ships of our day their unchanging proportions—as they were then so are they now.

That the government's experience at Port Royal has justified the wisdom of its choice; and any difficulties which have arisen were foreseen and provided for.

That the dry dock there situated is the best timber dock the government owns, and one today receive any ship in the navy. It cost less to build than any other government dock; has cost less to maintain, and is today absolutely firm in its foundations.

That the machine shops, built of brick and steel, equipped with modern machinery, are capable of making all ordinary repairs on men of war, and are so complete as to be capable of building a small vessel entire.

That the health of the immediate site, and of the whole section surrounding the harbor, is excellent.

That Charleston offers no superior advantages, and none commensurate with some of those above described.

That the proposed abandonment of this property would be a criminal act.

If this splendid navy yard is sacrificed, it will be through the pettiness of a few pleasure-seeking officers, the cupidity of certain commercial combinations, and the cunning of politicians.

Beaufort Committee on
Naval Station.

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